

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /018 W

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R 230500Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 694

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MILI, PP

SUBJ: PNG DEFENSE FORCE PROMOTIONS

1. JULY 16 LOCAL PRESS REPORTS LT. COL. KEN NOGA WILL BE
PROMOTED TO FULL COLONEL ON AUGUST 1, 1975

2. COL. NOGA HAS SERVED WITH THE PNG DEFENSE FORCE FOR
OVER 10 YEARS. AGED 30, HE HAILS FROM SAROA, RIGO, CENTRAL
DISTRICT. HE HAS SERVED AS THE COMMANDING OFFICER, 1ST
BATTALION, PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIMENT, AT TAURAMA BARRACKS
(PORT MORESBY) SINCE DECEMBER 16, 1974. HE WILL BECOME
CHIEF OF OPERATIONS UPON HIS PROMOTION, TAKING THE PLACE
OF COL. PATTERSON LOWA WHO RECENTLY ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION
EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1. COL. NOGA IS MARRIED (WIFE'S NAME
MARGARET) AND HAS THREE CHILDREN. BOTH THE COLONEL AND HIS
WIFE ARE PAPUAN. HE ATTENDED SOGERI HIGH SCHOOL AND HAS
RECEIVED ADDITIONAL TRAINING AT THE AUSTRALIAN OFFICER
CADET SCHOOL PORTSEA, MELBOURNE.

3. SAME PRESS ACCOUNT STATES LT. COL. KWAGO GURIA, AGED 31,
WILL BE PROMOTED TO FULL COLONEL ON OCTOBER 1. GURIA HAS
ALSO BEEN WITH PNGDF FOR OVER 10 YEARS, AND IS TO BECOME
CHIEF OF PERSONNEL AT THE PNGDF HEADQUARTERS. HE IS FROM
KALO, RIGO, CENTRAL DISTRICT AND HAS SERVED AS DIRECTOR
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PERSONNEL SERVICES HEADQUARTERS PNGDF SINCE NOVEMBER 1974.

HE IS PAPUAN AND ALSO ATTENDED SOGERI HIGH SCHOOL, IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN.

4. IN ADDITION MAJOR ANTHONY HUAI WILL BE PROMOTED TO LT. COL. ON JULY 31, AND WILL BECOME COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE 1ST PIR. MAJOR HUAI HAS BEEN AN INSTRUCTOR AT THE OFFICER CADET SCHOOL AT PARTSEA, MELBOURNE. HE TOO IS A PAPUAN FROM BEREINA, CENTRAL DISTRICT. HE IS AS YET UNKNOWN TO THE CONSULATE GENERAL.

5. COMMENT: NOGA IS AN INTELLIGENT AND CAPABLE OFFICER. LIKE COL DIRO, NOGA WAS FIRST ATTRACTED TO MILITARY LIFE WHEN HE WITNESSED 1ST PIR TROOPING OF COLORS CEREMONY AT TAURAMA BARRACKS WHEN HE WAS A YOUTH.

SOGERI SR. HIGH SCHOOL, WHEN NOGA'S GENERATION ATTENDED SCHOOL WAS A PRESTIGE INSTITUTION (AND IT STILL IS) AND UPNG WAS NOT THEN IN EXISTENCE. ITS PROXIMITY TO PORT MORESBY RESULTED IN A STUDENT BODY WITH HIGH PROPORTION OF PAPUANS, MANY OF WHOM WERE ALSO INFLUENCED TO TAKE UP MILITARY CAREERS BECAUSE OF CLOSE PROXIMITY OF 1ST PIR. AS CONSEQUENCE MAJORITY RANKING MEMBERS PNGDF ARE PAPUANS - COL TED DIRO, COL KEN NOGA, LT COL ANTHONY HUAI, LT COL K. W. GURIA, MAJOR T. T. NAUNA, AND MAJOR L. DOTAONA. IN SHARP CONTRAST MAJORITY OF LOWER RANKING OFFICERS ARE NEW GUINEANS. OLMSTED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONNEL PROMOTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTM00695
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750253-1237
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750729/aaaabacj.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PNG DEFENSE FORCE PROMOTIONS
TAGS: MILI, PP, (GURIA, KWAGO), (HUAI, ANTHONY), (NOGA, KEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006